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REED! EVERY-THING IS AS WE LEFT IT!
THAT MUST MEAN...
THE SILVER SURFER REACHED GALACTUS IN TIME!
EARTH IS SAVED!*
*IF YOU MISSED THIS ANGLE LAST ISH, FORGET IT! IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS MONTH'S YARN ANYWAY! --STRAIGHT-TALKIN' STAN.
SHEEESH! WE MAY HAVETA START COLLECTIN' UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE!
SUE! I HAVE TO SEE SUE!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR--- THE BABY!
I AIN'T HEARD FROM ALICIA, EITHER!
I BETTER GO SEE HER, BEFORE SHE FERGETS ABOUT HER BLUSHIN' BLUE-EYED DREAMBOAT!
NAHH, WHAT'S THE POINT? SHE PROBABLY LATCHED ONTA SOMEONE ELSE BY NOW!
WHAT DOES SHE NEED WITH A WALKIN' FREAK SHOW LIKE ME?
HEY, BENJY! ISN'T IT A REAL BLAST TO BE HOME AGAIN!
YEAH, SURE, JUNIOR! IT'S... A REAL...BLAST!
I'M GONNA HEAD FOR THE WILD BLUE YONDER 'N GIVE THE NATIVES A THRILL!
THEN MAYBE YOU AND ALICIA CAN DOUBLE DATE WITH CRYS AND ME!
WATCH WHERE YER FLYIN', YA BLASTED MATCH-HEAD!
I GOT MORE IMPORTANT STUFF TO THINK OF... THAN DATIN'!
POOR OL' BEN'S IN ONE OF HIS "I'M SORRY I'M THE THING" MOODS AGAIN!
WELL, HE'LL COME OUT OF IT SOONER OR LATER!
2

HMMPH! THE FF'S BACK! BIG DEAL... NOW THAT THE DANGER'S ALREADY OVER!
I HEARD WHAT THAT JOKER SAID!
BOY... IF HE ONLY KNEW THE HALF OF IT!
I STILL FEEL GOOD JUST KNOWING THEY'RE AROUND!
HEY, TORCH-- GIVE THE RED BARON ONE FOR ME!
BUT, IN THE MILLING THRONG BELOW, THERE IS ONE WHOSE REACTIONS ARE A BIT...DIFFERENT!
SO! MY INTENDED VICTIMS HAVE RETURNED AT LAST!
I MUST SEE THAT THEY ARE GIVEN A FITTING WELCOME!
DAILY BUGLE
WIZARD RELEASED FROM PRISON
VOWS VENGEANCE ON FANTASTIC 4
FINAL
DAILY
EACH TIME WE FOUGHT IN THE PAST, I CAME CLOSER TO DEFEATING THEM!
AND NOW, THE WIZARD IS FAR STRONGER... FAR MORE DEADLY, THAN EVER BEFORE!
...AS MY DOOMED ARCH-FOES SHALL SOON FIND OUT!
MEANWHILE, ONE OF THOSE "DOOMED ARCH-FOES" FINALLY WEARIES OF HIS SIZZLING SPORT, AND SO...
GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL QUIT WHILE I'M AHEAD!
'SIDES, POOR CRYS IS PROBABLY BUSTIN' TO SHOWER ME WITH LOVE'N KISSES!
AND WHO AM I TO KEEP A LOVELY LADY WAITING ?
HEY, BENJY... HOW COME CRYS ISN'T HERE YET? DIDN'T SHE CALL?
YEAH, HOTSHOT... SHE CALLED!
SHE'S AT THE HOSPITAL, LOOKIN' AFTER SUE... IN THE MATERNITY WARD!
SHE TOLD ME IF I RUN INTA YA TO SAY HELLO!
3.

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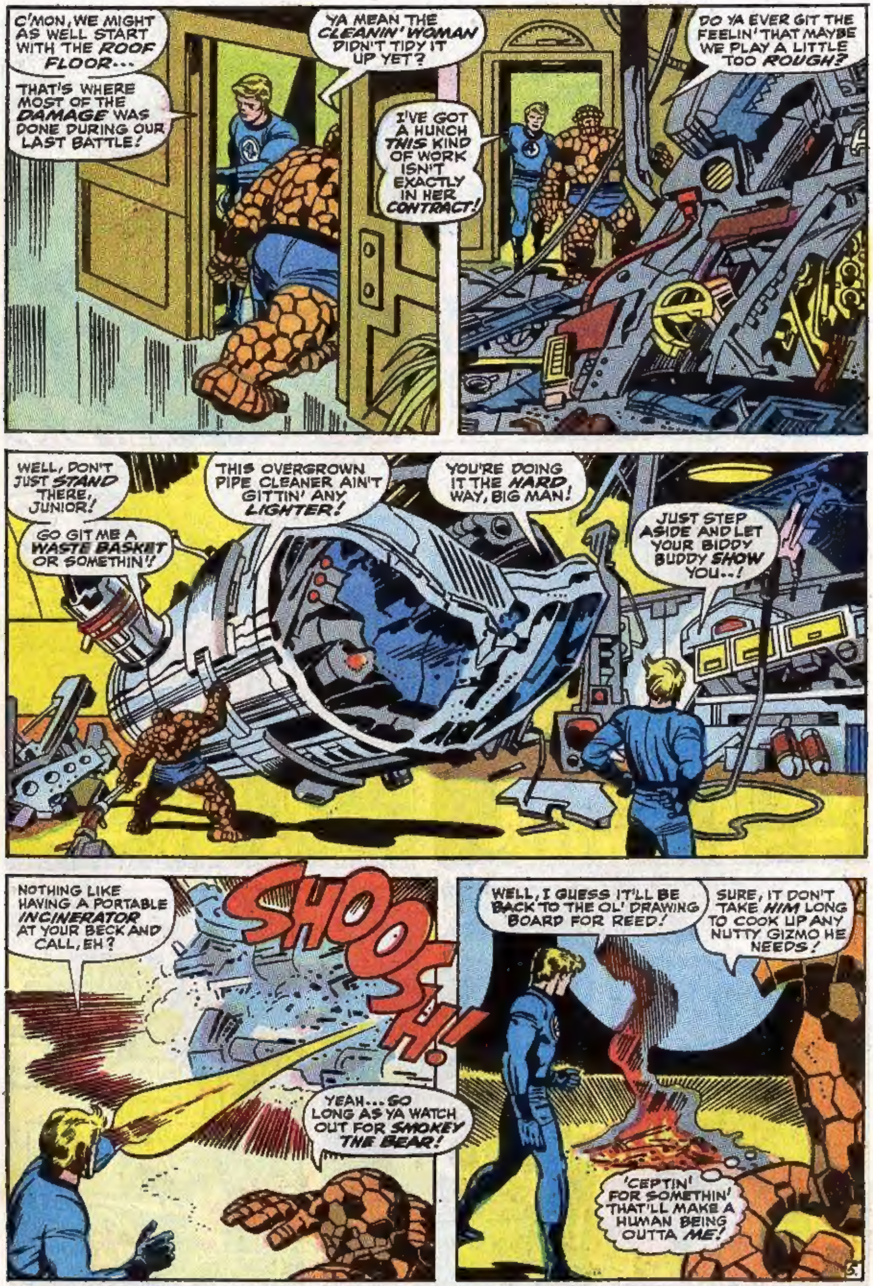
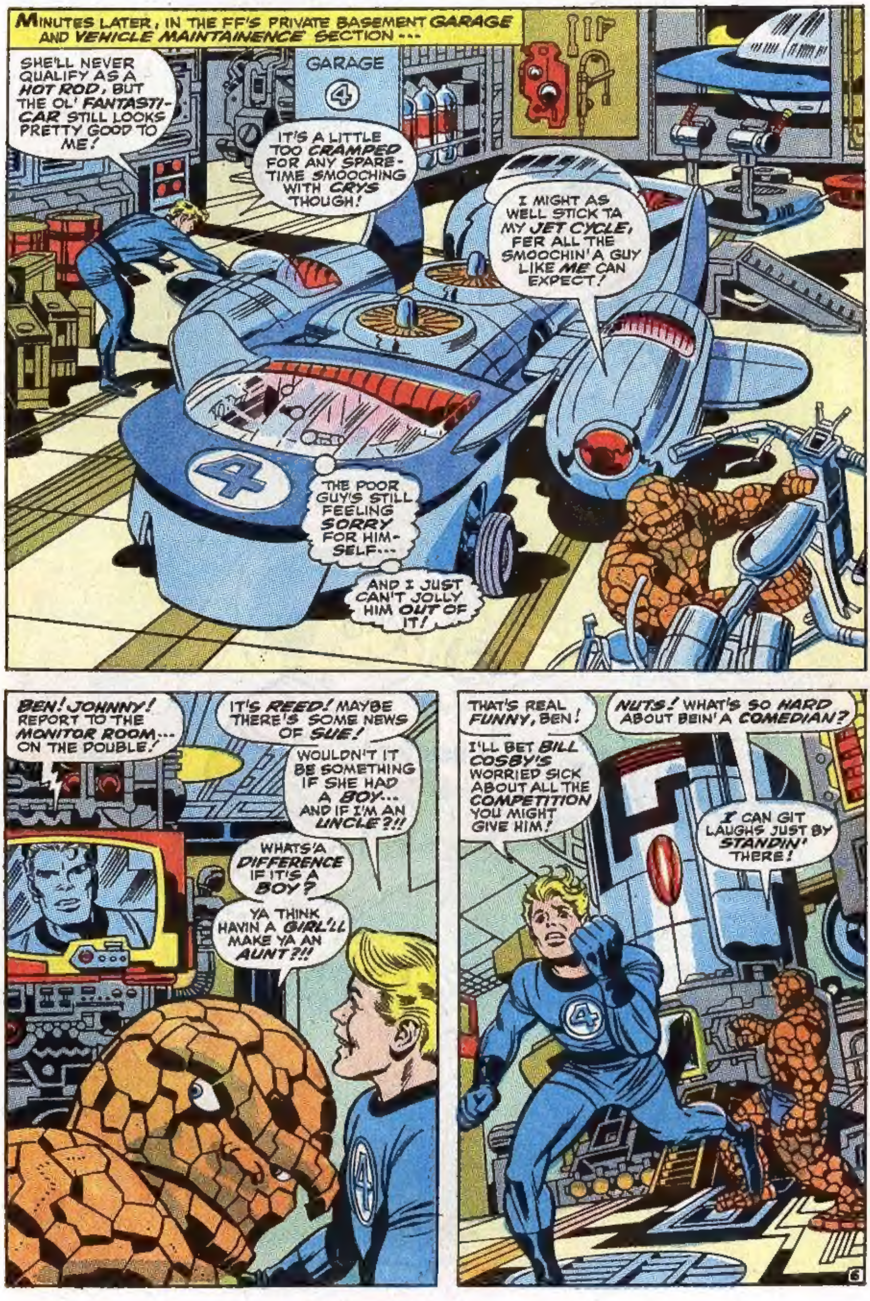
Pete Duncan is fictional. His story is a composite from the files of I.C.S.

AND I THOUGHT SHE WAS CRYING HER EYES OUT 'CAUSE I WAS GONE!
MAN, WAIT'LL I SEE THAT CHICK--!
RELAX, LOVER BOY! THERE AIN'T NO VISITORS ALLOWED THERE UNTIL LATER ON!
HOWZABOUT SPLITTIN' A PASTRAMI SAN'WICH?
WHAT'S WITH YOU, BEN! IS YOUR BELLY ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT?
WHEN YA LOOK LIKE ME, WHAT ELSE IS THERE, CHARLIE?
I'M SORRY, BIG BUDDY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT!
THAT'S OKAY, HALF-PINT! WHO LISTENS?
TELL YA WHAT... SINCE WE GOT SOME TIME TA KILL, LET'S CHECK THINGS OUT AROUND HERE!
GOOD IDEA, BEN!
IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE WE'VE HAD A CHANCE TO TEST OUT ALL OUR EQUIP-MENT!
WHAT'S WITH THIS BLAMED ELEVATOR BUTTON? IT AIN'T WORKIN'!
WOW! YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG--!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PROTECTIVE DEVICES REED EVER INSTALLED?
HE DIDN'T WANT JUST ANYBODY TO BE ABLE TO DROP IN ON US!
THAT'S WHY HE BUILT THIS ELECTRONIC DOOHICKEY IN OUR BELT BUCKLES!
CLICK!
YEAH, YEAH... NOW I REMEMBER!
THE ONLY THING WRONG WITH IT IS... IT NEVER KEPT OUT THE DANGEROUS CREEPS WHO WUZ AFTER US!
BUT IT WORKED WONDERS AGAINST BILL COLLECTORS!
ZIZT!
5


C'MON, WE MIGHT AS WELL START WITH THE ROOF FLOOR...
THAT'S WHERE MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS DONE DURING OUR LAST BATTLE!
YA MEAN THE CLEANIN' WOMAN DIDN'T TIDY IT UP YET?
I'VE GOT A HUNCH THIS KIND OF WORK ISN'T EXACTLY IN HER CONTRACT!
DO YA EVER GIT THE FEELIN' THAT MAYBE WE PLAY A LITTLE TOO ROUGH?
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, JUNIOR!
GO GIT ME A WASTE BASKET OR SOMETHIN'!
THIS OVERGROWN PIPE CLEANER AIN'T GITTIN' ANY LIGHTER!
YOU'RE DOING IT THE HARD WAY, BIG MAN!
JUST STEP ASIDE AND LET YOUR BIDDY BUDDY SHOW YOU..!
NOTHING LIKE HAVING A PORTABLE INCINERATOR AT YOUR BECK AND CALL, EH?
SHOOOSH!
YEAH... SO LONG AS YA WATCH OUT FOR SMOKEY THE BEAR!
WELL, I GUESS IT'LL BE BACK TO THE OL' DRAWING BOARD FOR REED!
SURE, IT DON'T TAKE HIM LONG TO COOK UP ANY NUTTY GIZMO HE NEEDS!
'CEPTIN' FOR SOMETHIN' THAT'LL MAKE A HUMAN BEING OUTTA ME!
5.


MINUTES LATER, IN THE FF'S PRIVATE BASEMENT GARAGE AND VEHICLE MAINTAINENCE SECTION ---
SHE'LL NEVER QUALIFY AS A HOT ROD, BUT THE OL' FANTASTI-CAR STILL LOOKS PRETTY GOOD TO ME!
GARAGE 4
IT'S A LITTLE TOO CRAMPED FOR ANY SPARE-TIME SMOOCHING WITH CRYS THOUGH!
I MIGHT AS WELL STICK TA MY JET CYCLE, FER ALL THE SMOOCHIN' A GUY LIKE ME CAN EXPECT!
THE POOR GUY'S STILL FEELING SORRY FOR HIM-SELF---
AND I JUST CAN'T JOLLY HIM OUT OF IT!
BEN! JOHNNY! REPORT TO THE MONITOR ROOM--- ON THE DOUBLE!
IT'S REED! MAYBE THERE'S SOME NEWS OF SUE!
WOULDN'T IT BE SOMETHING IF SHE HAD A BOY... AND IF I'M AN UNCLE?!!
WHAT'S'A DIFFERENCE IF IT'S A BOY?
YA THINK HAVIN A GIRL'LL MAKE YA AN AUNT?!!
THAT'S REAL FUNNY, BEN!
NUTS! WHAT'S SO HARD ABOUT BEIN' A COMEDIAN?
I'LL BET BILL COSBY'S WORRIED SICK ABOUT ALL THE COMPETITION YOU MIGHT GIVE HIM!
I CAN GIT LAUGHS JUST BY STANDIN' THERE!
6

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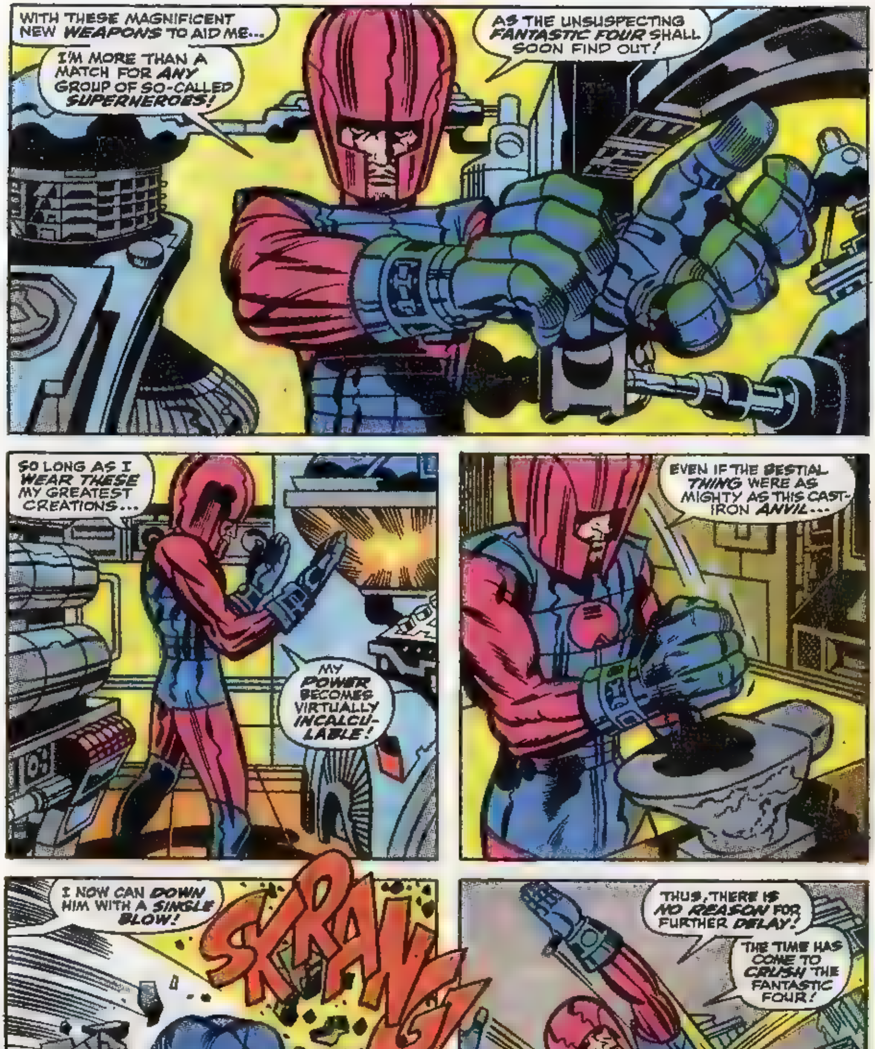
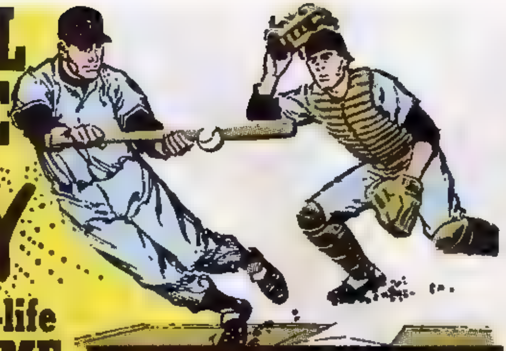
I'M GLAD REED CALLED US! NEVER SAW BEN IN SUCH A BLUE MOOD BEFORE!
ANY NEWS FROM THE HOSPITAL, BROTHER-IN-LAW?
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY, JOHNNY!
POGO PLANE
BUT WE'VE SOMETHING ELSE TO DO..!
PROJECTION ROOM
I HARDLY KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS... AFTER ALL THE DISAPPOINTMENTS WE'VE HAD IN THE PAST...
DISAPPOINTMENTS? YOU SOUND AS THOUGH...IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH...TRYING TO CHANGE BEN BACK TO NORMAL!
YOU HIT IT, LAD! I THINK I'VE FINALLY FOUND...THE FORMULA!
HERE WE GO AGAIN, HUH KIDDIES?
I KNOW THE HEARTBREAK YOU'VE SUFFERED, OLD FRIEND...WHEN THE CHANGES WEREN'T PERMANENT BEFORE!
BUT THIS TIME...IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT!
THEN...YA DIDN'T FORGET!
YOU REALLY HAVE BEEN WORKIN' ON IT...LIKE YA ONCE PRO-MISED ME!
I'VE GOT EVERY-THING READY... THERE IN THE CHEM LAB!
CHEMISTR LAB
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP, BEN! YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT!
BUT, IT SEEMS THAT SOME ARCH-VILLAINS FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT GIVING UP! ERGO...
TRUE, THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE BEATEN ME IN THE PAST...
BUT, THAT WAS BEFORE THE WIZARD WORE ...HIS MULTI-POWERED WONDER-GLOVES!



WITH THESE MAGNIFICENT NEW WEAPONS TO AID ME...
I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANY GROUP OF SO-CALLED SUPERHEROES!
AS THE UNSUSPECTING FANTASTIC FOUR SHALL SOON FIND OUT!
SO LONG AS I WEAR THESE MY GREATEST CREATIONS...
MY POWER BECOMES VIRTUALLY INCALCULABLE!
EVEN IF THE BESTIAL THING WERE AS MIGHTY AS THIS CAST-IRON ANVIL...
I NOW CAN DOWN HIM WITH A SINGLE BLOW!
SKRANG!
THUS, THERE IS NO REASON FOR FURTHER DELAY!
THE TIME HAS COME TO CRUSH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
8

AND, ON THAT SOMEWHAT SOMBER NOTE, LET'S REJOIN OUR GRIM LITTLE GROUP AT A MOST MOMENTOUS MOMENT...
I HAVE EVERY REASON TO HOPE... TO BELIEVE.. THAT THIS TIME THE CHANGE WILL BE PERMANENT!
THAT MEANS..I WON'T BE..A WALKIN' MONSTER ANY MORE!
I WON'T HAVETA...CHOKE BACK THE WORDS...I BEEN ACHIN' TO SAY... TO ALICIA!
DEAR GOD...MAKE IT WORK!
IT'S GOT TO WORK!
DRINK THIS, BEN!
SURE!
WHAT'UVE I GOT TA LOSE?
REED! HE'S SO QUIET... SO STILL!
HE ISN'T--- YOU DIDN'T--??
NO, LAD...HE'S ALIVE!
THE POTION MERELY PUT HIM INTO A DEEP SLEEP!
STAND BEHIND THIS PLEXIGLASS SHIELD, JOHNNY!
IF ALL GOES WELL...HIS BODY WILL RELEASE A SUDDEN SURGE OF CHEMI-COSMIC ENERGY...
WATCH!
COVER YOUR EYES!! IT'S WORKING!
9

BASEBALL FANS ARE CRAZY



about this true-to-life BASEBALL GAME

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STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. —*P. C., Attleboro, Mass.*

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play. —*G. V., Cincinnati, O.*

As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games. —*F. T., Manila, P.I.*

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. —*A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.*

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life. —*C. H., Lanett, Ala.*

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Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer. —*N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.*

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It has given me more pleasure than any other game. —*S. E., Rossville, Ind.*

The most exciting and fun game ever. —*L.S., Boston, Mass.*

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Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season. —*S. C., Temple City, Calif.*

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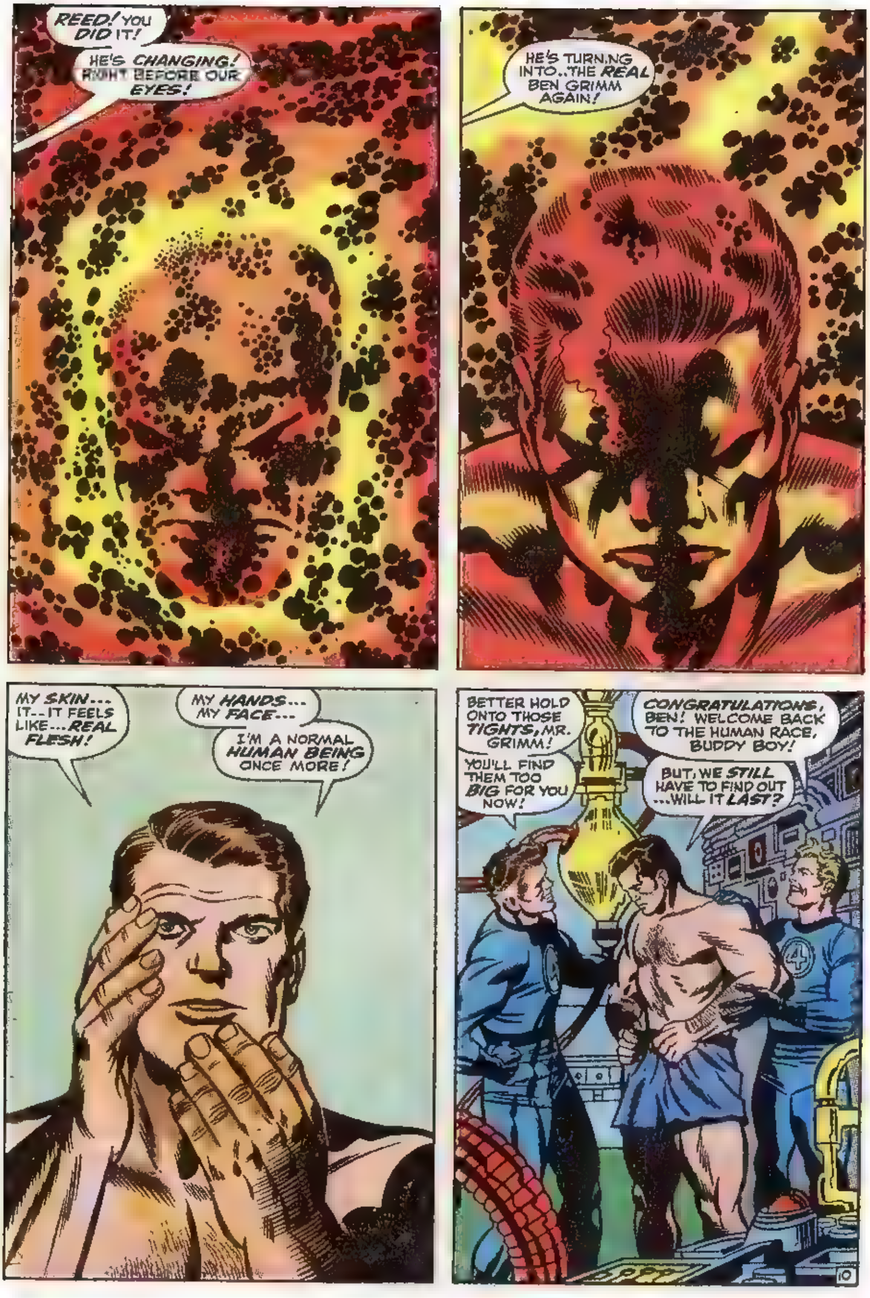
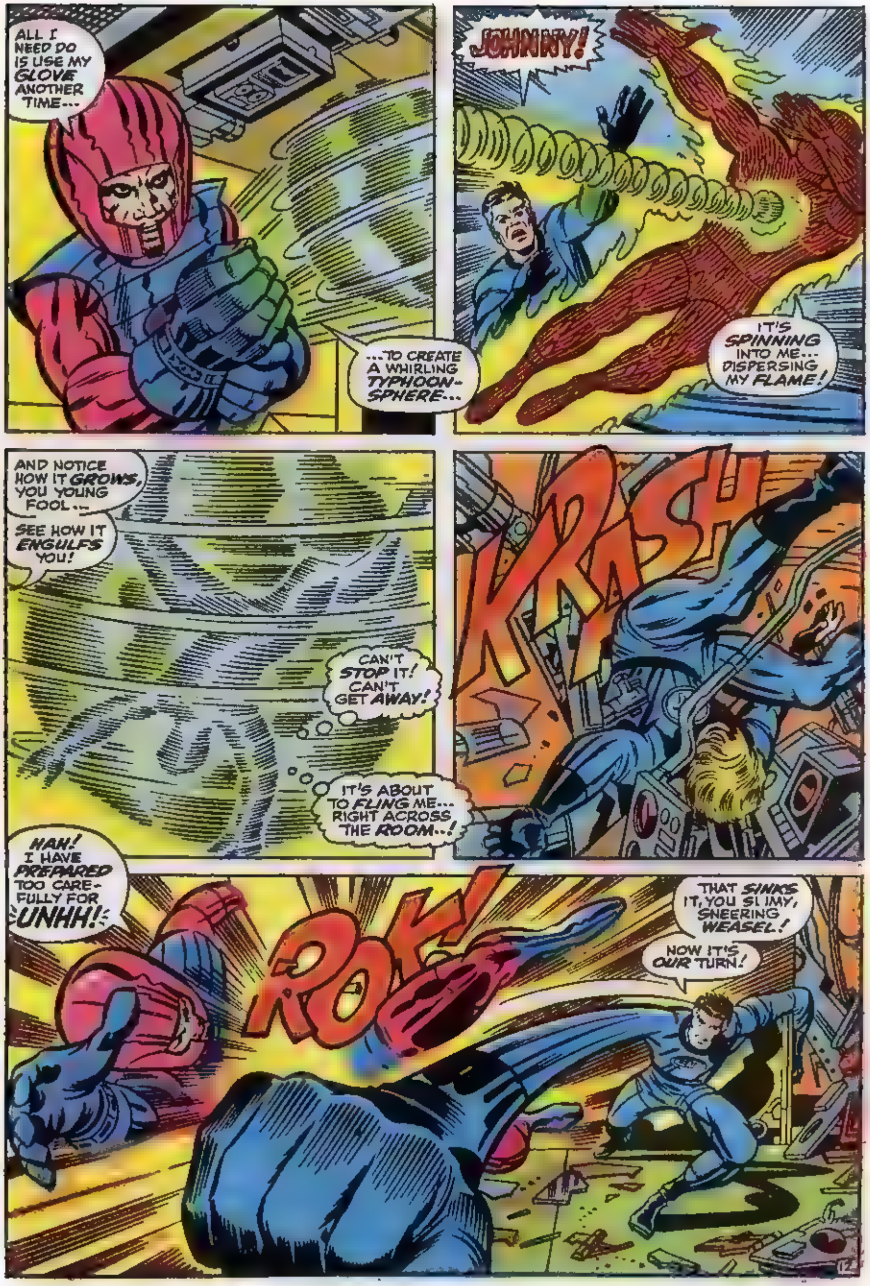
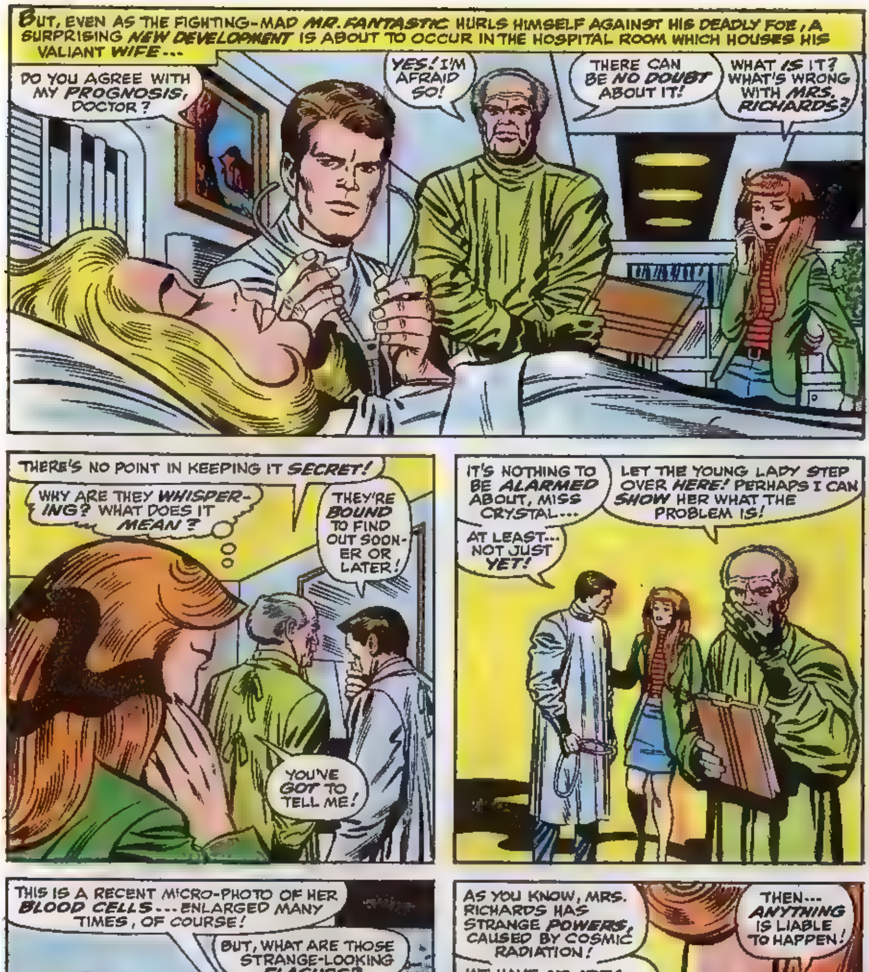

REED! YOU DID IT!
HE'S CHANGING! RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!
HE'S TURNING INTO..THE REAL BEN GRIMM AGAIN!
MY SKIN... IT--IT FEELS LIKE...REAL FLESH!
MY HANDS... MY FACE...
I'M A NORMAL HUMAN BEING ONCE MORE!
BETTER HOLD ONTO THOSE TIGHTS, MR. GRIMM!
YOU'LL FIND THEM TOO BIG FOR YOU NOW!
CONGRATULATIONS, BEN! WELCOME BACK TO THE HUMAN RACE, BUDDY BOY!
BUT, WE STILL HAVE TO FIND OUT ...WILL IT LAST?
10

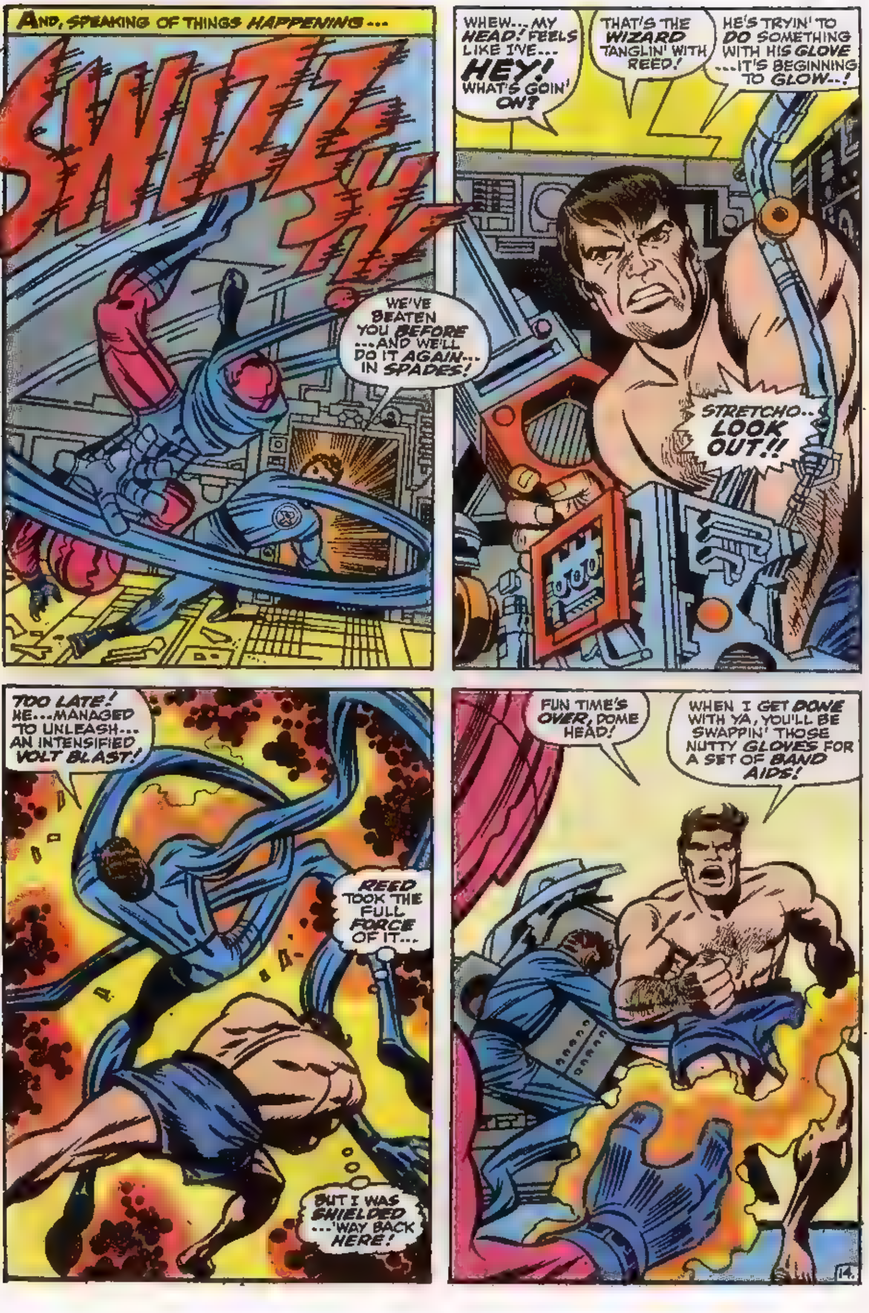
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW, GRIMM!
NONE OF YOU WILL LIVE LONG ENOUGH!
A SHOCK BOLT!! FROM...
SURELY YOU STILL REMEMBER ME..? YOUR ONE-TIME ANTAGONIST... THE WINGLESS WIZARD!
USING MY MINIATURIZED FLYING DISCS, IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO ENTER THRU THE HOLE IN YOUR ROOF!
AND NOW... YOU'LL FEEL THE POWER OF.. MY WONDER GLOVES!
A PITY THE THING IS NO LONGER WORTHY OF CONTENTION!
I'D HAVE ENJOYED SMASHING HIM IN THIS SELFSAME MANNER!
LISTEN, YOU HOKEY, HIGH-FLYIN' HEEL...
AFTER WHAT WE'VE JUST BEEN UP AGAINST, WE'LL POLISH YOU OFF WITHOUT HALF TRYING!
FLAME ON!
AND NO CORNY GLOVE IS GONNA STOP US!
WRONGER YOU COULDN'T BE, MY FATUOUS FRIEND!
JUST WATCH!
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE'S STANDING HIS GROUND...LOOKING SO CONFIDENT!



ALL I NEED DO IS USE MY GLOVE ANOTHER TIME...
...TO CREATE A WHIRLING TYPHOON-SPHERE...
JOHNNY!
IT'S SPINNING INTO ME... DISPERSING MY FLAME!
AND NOTICE HOW IT GROWS, YOU YOUNG FOOL...
SEE HOW IT ENGULFS YOU!
CAN'T STOP IT! CAN'T GET AWAY!
IT'S ABOUT TO FLING ME... RIGHT ACROSS THE ROOM..!
KRASH
HAH! I HAVE PREPARED TOO CAREFULLY FOR UNHH!
ROK!
THAT SINKS IT, YOU SLIMY, SNEERING WEASEL!
NOW IT'S OUR TURN!
12



BUT, EVEN AS THE FIGHTING-MAD MR. FANTASTIC HURLS HIMSELF AGAINST HIS DEADLY FOE, A SURPRISING NEW DEVELOPMENT IS ABOUT TO OCCUR IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM WHICH HOUSES HIS VALIANT WIFE...
DO YOU AGREE WITH MY PROGNOSIS, DOCTOR?
YES! I'M AFRAID SO!
THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MRS. RICHARDS?
THERE'S NO POINT IN KEEPING IT SECRET!
WHY ARE THEY WHISPERING? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
THEY'RE BOUND TO FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER!
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME!
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT, MISS CRYSTAL...
AT LEAST... NOT JUST YET!
LET THE YOUNG LADY STEP OVER HERE! PERHAPS I CAN SHOW HER WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!
THIS IS A RECENT MICRO-PHOTO OF HER BLOOD CELLS... ENLARGED MANY TIMES, OF COURSE!
BUT, WHAT ARE THOSE STRANGE-LOOKING FLASHES?
PRECISELY WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WONDERING, MY CHILD!
AS YOU KNOW, MRS. RICHARDS HAS STRANGE POWERS, CAUSED BY COSMIC RADIATION!
WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THE BIRTH OF HER BABY!
THEN... ANYTHING IS LIABLE TO HAPPEN!



AND, SPEAKING OF THINGS HAPPENING...
SWIZZZ-ZZ!!
WE'VE BEATEN YOU BEFORE ...AND WE'LL DO IT AGAIN... IN SPADES!
WHEW... MY HEAD! FEELS LIKE I'VE... HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
THAT'S THE WIZARD TANGLIN' WITH REED!
HE'S TRYIN' TO DO SOMETHING WITH HIS GLOVE ...IT'S BEGINNING TO GLOW--!
STRETCHO-- LOOK OUT!!
TOO LATE! HE...MANAGED TO UNLEASH... AN INTENSIFIED VOLT BLAST!
REED TOOK THE FULL FORCE OF IT...
BUT I WAS SHIELDED ...'WAY BACK HERE!
FUN TIME'S OVER, DOME HEAD!
WHEN I GET DONE WITH YA, YOU'LL BE SWAPPIN' THOSE NUTTY GLOVES FOR A SET OF BAND AIDS!
14

YOU'RE A BIGGER FOOL THAN I THOUGHT!
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW HELPLESS YOU ARE AGAINST ME?
KEEP TALKIN'! BIG MOUTH--- WHILE YA CAN!
NO CORNY PAIR OF GLOVES ARE GONNA--
UNHHH!
I JUST REALIZED.. YOU'RE NOT AWARE WHAT HAPPENED..!
YOU STILL THINK OF YOURSELF AS THE SUPER-POWERFUL, RAMPAGING THING!!
WADDAYA MEAN THINK OF MYSELF?
WHEN I GET THIS HUNK'A STEEL TWISTED AROUND YER SCRAWNY NECK, YOU'LL---
HEY! WHAT GIVES--?
WHY AIN'T I RIPPIN' IT LOOSE?
I CAN'T EVEN BUDGE IT! MY ARMS ARE TOO... ---WAIT!!
MY ARMS... MY SKIN... I.. I'M NOT THE THING ANY-MORE!
NOW I REMEMBER! REED CHANGED ME BACK... TO BEN GRIMM!
DON'T WASTE TIME ON IDLE REGRETS, SIMPLETON!
EVEN AS THE THING, MY WONDER GLOVES WOULD FLOOR YOU!

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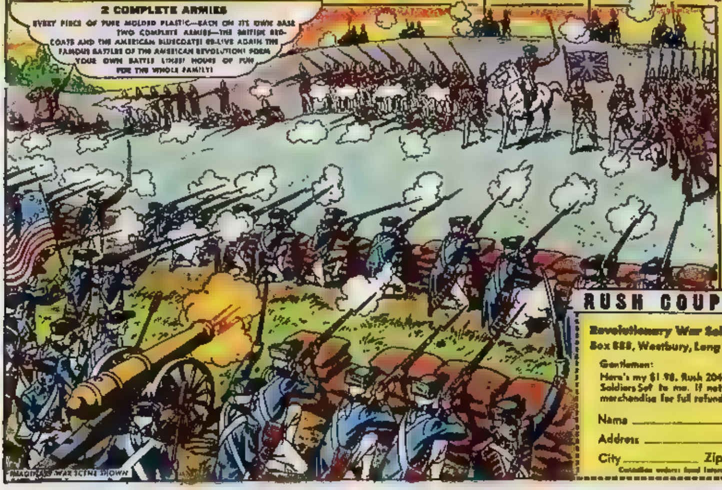

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- 12 Marching Infantrymen
- 12 Crouching Infantrymen
- 12 Fifers
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- 12 Sharpshooters
- 12 Field Cannon
- 12 Cannon Loaders
- 12 Drummers
- 12 Minute Men
- 24 Mohawk Indians
- 12 Officers
- 12 Hessian Troops

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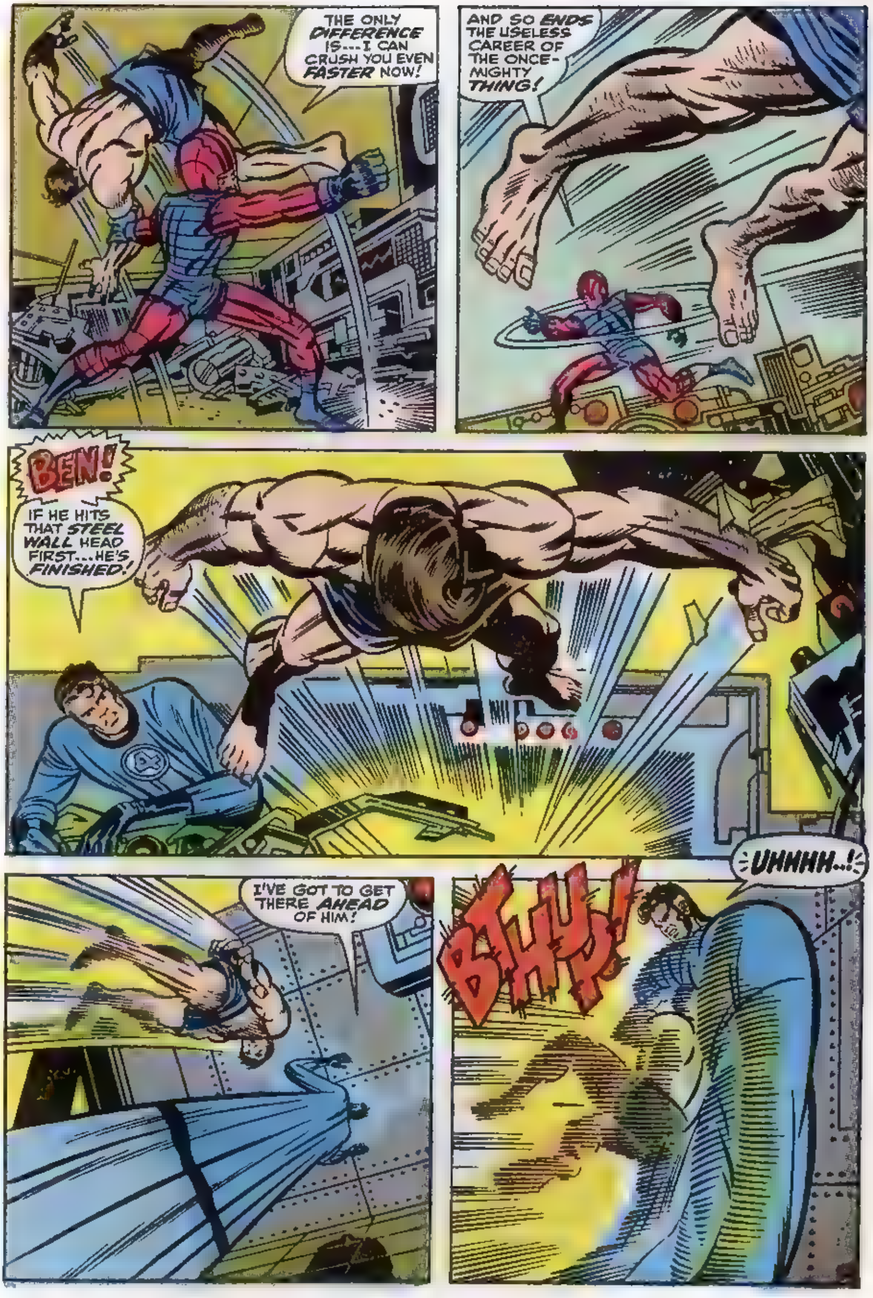
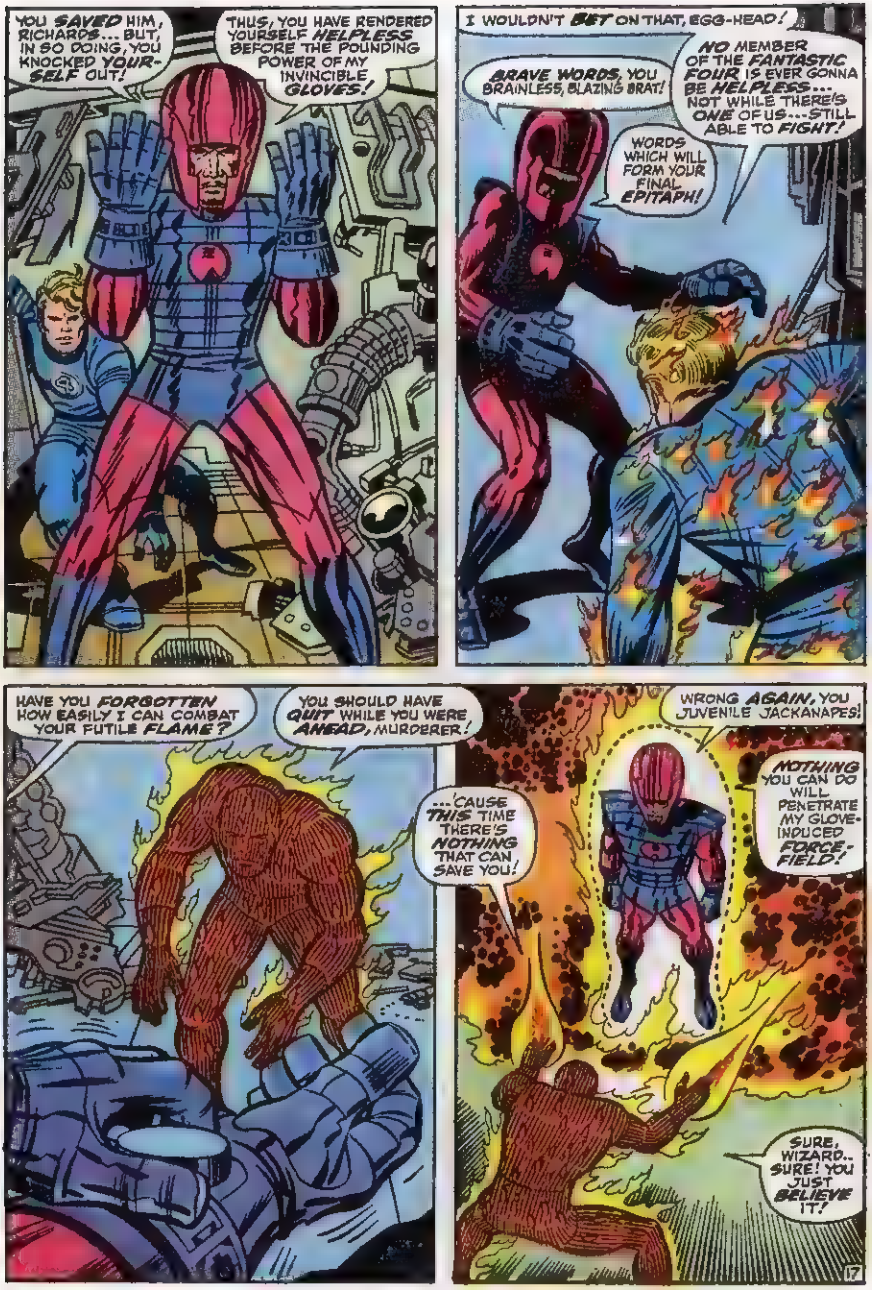
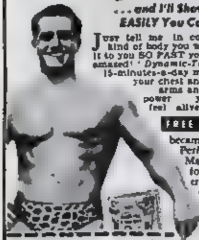

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS---I CAN CRUSH YOU EVEN FASTER NOW!
AND SO ENDS THE USELESS CAREER OF THE ONCE-MIGHTY THING!
BEN!
IF HE HITS THAT STEEL WALL HEAD FIRST...HE'S FINISHED!
I'VE GOT TO GET THERE AHEAD OF HIM!
BTHUD!
UHHHH..!


YOU SAVED HIM, RICHARDS... BUT, IN SO DOING, YOU KNOCKED YOURSELF OUT!
THUS, YOU HAVE RENDERED YOURSELF HELPLESS BEFORE THE POUNDING POWER OF MY INVINCIBLE GLOVES!
I WOULDN'T BET ON THAT, EGG-HEAD!
NO MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS EVER GONNA BE HELPLESS... NOT WHILE THERE'S ONE OF US...STILL ABLE TO FIGHT!
BRAVE WORDS, YOU BRAINLESS, BLAZING BRAT!
WORDS WHICH WILL FORM YOUR FINAL EPITAPH!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW EASILY I CAN COMBAT YOUR FUTILE FLAME?
YOU SHOULD HAVE QUIT WHILE YOU WERE AHEAD, MURDERER!
WRONG AGAIN, YOU JUVENILE JACKANAPES!
...'CAUSE THIS TIME THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN SAVE YOU!
NOTHING YOU CAN DO WILL PENETRATE MY GLOVE-INDUCED FORCE-FIELD!
SURE, WIZARD.. SURE! YOU JUST BELIEVE IT!
17

YOU'RE SO BUSY GLOATING OF YOUR CORNY FORCE FIELD...
THAT YOU OVERLOOKED YOUR ONE POINT OF VULNERA-BILITY...
NAMELY, THE FLOOR BELOW YOU... ON WHICH YOU WERE STANDING!
IT WORKED! I NEEDLED HIM INTO STANDING JUST WHERE I WANTED HIM...!
HEY, BIG BRAIN.. ENJOYING YOUR LITTLE BATH IN REED'S OVERSIZED CHEM-TANK?
YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING, TORCH!
MY FORCE FIELD EASILY PROTECTS ME FROM THE EFFECTS OF ANY HARMFUL CHEMICALS!
SURE IT DOES, BAD MAN...
BUT WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!
IF I CAN JUST ACTIVATE THE MAIN PANEL IN TIME...!
CLICK!
THPUP!
I DID IT! I CLAMPED THE LID ON HIM!
AN IDLE GESTURE!
I CAN STILL BREAK FREE WITH MY WONDER GLOVES!
NOT IF YOU DON'T GET A CHANCE TO USE THEM!
I FORGOT TO MENTION ONE ITTY BITTY THING, WIZ...
YOU LANDED IN A CENTRIFUGE TANK--WHICH CAN WHIRL YOU AROUND LIKE A HUMAN PROP!
BUT YOU PROBABLY GET THE IDEA BY NOW!

Check the Kind of Body You Want



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MEANWHILE, A BATTERED AND BRUISED BEN GRIMM COMES TO A SUDDEN REALIZATION...
REED SAVED MY LIFE... BY TAKING THE ENTIRE IMPACT ON HIS OWN BODY!
IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED... IF I HAD STILL BEEN... THE THING!
I WOULD'A BEEN ABLE TO PULL MY OWN WEIGHT... TO DO MY OWN SHARE OF THE FIGHTING! BUT NOW...
HE'S ALIVE! HE'S STILL BREATHIN'! HE'S GONNA MAKE IT!
HOW CAN I LIVE WITH MYSELF... IF CHANGING ME BACK TO NORMAL... COST MY BEST FRIEND ... HIS LIFE?
REED! IT'S ME... IT'S BEN!
C'MON, OL' BUDDY... SNAP OUT OF IT, HEAR?
BEN! THIS TIME IT WORKED! YOU'RE STILL YOURSELF! YOU DIDN'T CHANGE BACK...!
YEAH, IT WORKED JUST FINE, PARTNER!
BUT... I JUST RE-MEMBERED!
THE WIZARD! WHERE IS HE? WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S THE TORCH?
LISTEN! I HEAR 'IM NOW! HE'S CALLIN'... FROM DOWNSTAIRS!
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
THERE HE IS! THE WIZARD IS DOWN! JOHNNY BEAT HIM!
NATURALLY! DIDN'T WE TEACH 'IM ALL HE KNOWS?
ANYONE WANNA BUY A PAIR OF GOOFY GLOVES?
HANDLE THEM WITH CARE, LAD!
I'LL WANT TO STUDY EVERY FIBER OF THEIR MAKEUP!
THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH NOW... BUT THEY ALMOST ENABLED HIM TO BEAT US!
AND A FAT LOTTA HELP I TURNED OUT TO BE!
19

FOOLS! YOU HAVEN'T WON YET!
NOT WHILE I STILL POSSESS MY ANTI-GRAV FLYING DISCS!
LOOK OUT! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
I'LL FLAME ON... AND GO AFTER HIM!
NO! STAY WHERE YOU ARE, JOHNNY!
YOU'VE USED UP TOO MUCH ENERGY ALREADY! ..YOU'LL NEVER OVERTAKE HIM!
WITHOUT THE MAIN CONTROL STUD WHICH I STILL POSSESS, MY GLOVES WILL BE TOTALLY WORTHLESS TO YOU!
AND, ONCE I HAVE CONSTRUCTED A NEWER... MORE POWERFUL PAIR... I'LL BE BACK!
...WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT ME!
WELL, THAT'S A CHEERY THOUGHT!
CROW ALL YOU WANT TO, GRUE-SOME--
IF MY FLAME WAS AT ITS PEAK... OR IF REED HADN'T BEEN HURT... OR IF BEN WAS STILL THE THING...
BUT, BEN WASN'T THE THING... SO I FAILED US ALL!
REED, YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE ME SOMETHING... SO I CAN TURN INTO THAT BLUE-EYED LUMP'A LARD WHENEVER YOU NEED ME!
NO, BEN! DON'T SAY IT! DON'T EVEN ASK ME!
WHY NOT? WHAT'S WRONG, FELLA? WHAT IS IT?
THE ONLY WAY I COULD CREATE THE FORMULA... WAS TO MAKE IT A ONE-WAY STREET!
YOU CAN CHANGE BACK TO THE THING... JUST ONE MORE TIME...
BUT, IF YOU DO...
YOU CAN NEVER BECOME BEN GRIMM, AGAIN!
THEN, I MUST EITHER REMAIN AS BEN GRIMM... OR BECOME THE THING... FOREVER!
NEXT
BEN'S CHOICE!

MORE HYSTERICAL HOOPLA AND HANGUPS FROM YOUR HOWLIN' HOUSE OF IDEAS!

ITEM! Remember when STAN THE MAN wrote just about every superhero yarn we published during the early days of Marvel? Well, the reason we've been able to expand our output and to bring you more of the mags you've been clamoring for is because we've gradually found other scripters who've been able to capture the mad, modern Marvel mood. The first of these sensational scribes is our now-associate editor, Rascally ROY THOMAS, our poker-playing pundit of the pandemonious plot! Next, we latched onto an old buddy of Roy's, Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH, our swingin', zingin', folk-song-singin' assistant ed. But, not content to rest on our laurels, we were lucky enough to snare Affable ARCHIE GOODWIN, former editor, author, and blushin' bon vivant, who brings his own scintillatin' style to the majesty of Marvel. And now, just a few months later, we announce with pride that another two stalwarts who've toiled elsewhere for lo these many years have finally seen the light and joined the ranks of True Believers here at the batty Bullpen. (We'll introduce 'em in another ish!) So, where once there was just poor, slavin', long-suffering Stan, our leader now has five fabulous, far-out fantasy-writin' friends to help us prove we mean it when we say: "Hang onto your hat, hero — Marvel's taking over the world!" (Or, wouldja believe Yancy Street?)

ITEM! But, with every bit of good news, there is often its exact opposite. And so, with heavy hearts, we announce the departure of one of the Bullpen's most popular pixies — Fabulous FLO STEINBERG who bids us a fond farewell to seek her fortunes in another field of endeavor. Lovely Fab had won the collective hearts of Marveldom Assembled in the years during which she helped to answer the ever-growing mountain of mail which sometimes threatened to engulf us all. Face Front, Flo! The best of luck to you where e'er you go.

ITEM! For those of you who've been vacationing on another planet for the past few months, we're gonna repeat the six swingin' ranks of Marveldom for serious study and transcendental meditation! Now for Odin's sake, memorize 'em carefully, 'cause we're starting to get writers' cramp!

- RFO (Real Frantic One): A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags each month.
- QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer). A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.
- TTB (Titanic True Believer). A divinely-inspired no-prize winner.
- KOF (Keeper Of the Flame). One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.
- PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus). Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
- FFF (Fearless Front Facer): An honorary title, bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

But even if you're just a lowly F.F.M. (Futile Forbush Man, natch!) take heart, hero — we love you just the same.

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This one's a real surprise! You've seen Herb Trimpe's name listed as "inker" all over the place in our mags. Well, a few weeks ago we saw some of his original drawings and realized that we've had an exciting, top-notch penciller hidden right under our quivering noses! So, not being shy, we asked Happy Herbie what he'd like to draw, and he told us. It seems that Mr. Trimpe is a dyed-in-the-wool fan of World War I airplane dogfights! And, since the rest of your Bullpen are shameless superhero fans, we decided to combine the two. Which is just our long-winded way of telling you not to dare miss MARVEL SUPERHEROES #16, which features one of the most daringly different superheroes of all — The Phantom Eagle! And now, we've gotta cut out — Country Joe and the Fish just arrived to visit us — and we don't wanna keep 'em out of the water too long! Excelsior,

Smiley

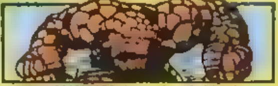
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE 35¢ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #1: Last chance, web-spinners! The great second ish goes on sale next month, and these'll be gone forever. We couldn't sleep nights if we thought you'd missed the longest Spidey saga ever presented! And oh, that artwork!

NOT BRAND ECHH #9: This one, too, is on sale for a second month, to make sure that no Flame-Keeper among you misses it. It's got more pages, laughs, and lunacy than ever before. And dig those sizzlin' stuporheroes!

SILVER SURFER #1: Featuring the longest, and possibly the greatest Origin story ever illustrated! There's no doubt about it — the Silver Surfer is certain to equal Spidey himself in popularity! And we should worry — they're both ours!



SPIDER-MAN #64: Now that Spidey knows the Vulture lives again, he has to answer another question — how can one lone wall-crawler, with more problems than he can wiggle a web at, defeat the most deadly foe of all?

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #16: Just as we promised you — a full-length blockbuster of mystery and action, starring the all-new Phantom Eagle! Plus, the usual mildly magnificent mish-mash of masked misanthropes!

AVENGERS #55: So you think you learned the full secret of the dread Crimson Cowl last ish? Well don't believe it, pilgrim . . . till you see the Avengers slug it out to the finish with his malevolent Masters of Evil! Hooo-boy!

X-MEN #47: The spotlight this month is on Iceman and the ever-exciting Beast, as they clash head-on with the mysterious Maha Yogi! And, when you find out who he really is, you'll know why he's a lot more dangerous than he sounds!

DAREDEVIL #43: No, it's not a gag! It's not an (echh!) imaginary tale! It's for real! DD finally battles the one and only — Captain America — with no punches pulled! It's the action-hit of the month — a brain-blaster!

MIGHTY THOR #155: Truly one of Thor's most epic sagas! Although the Thunder God has battled many foes before, never has any come as close to the destruction of the entire universe as has — Mangog! This one's a must!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #105: Zowie! Look who's back — none other than the bludgeoning Batroc, accompanied by the Living Laser and the sinister Swordsman! For fantastic action beyond compare, wait'll you see Cap tackle "Batroc's Brigade"!

INCREDIBLE HULK #107: Our green-skinned golem faces not one, but three deadly threats . . . the far-eastern counterpart of Shield, the menacing Mandarin — and perhaps the one thing that even his titanic strength can't combat!

IRON MAN #5: Possibly the most unusual transistorized saga of all, as our great golden avenger rockets into the far future, where public enemy number one is none other than . . . Tony Stark! And wait'll you meet Cerebrus!

SUB-MARINER #5: For all those frantic ones who thought we'd never come up with a non-Atlantean underwater baddie for Namor to fight, we proudly present the one and only Tiger Shark! He's deep-six dynamite!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #5: Who — or what — is the amazing Metazoid? Don't even try to guess — until you see him come face to face with the spaceman called Mar-Vell in an action-packed, TNT-charged duel to the death! 'Nuff said!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #4: With vengeance in his merciless heart . . . with super-weapons which beggar description . . . the evil entity called Scorpio strikes again at Nick Fury, the man he is pledged to destroy! Not for the timid!

DR. STRANGE #172: Dormammu's back — and Doc Strange has got him! Or, is it the other way around? And, breathes there a Marvelite who'll dare miss Gentleman Gene Colan's great art job on our favorite mystic master?

SGT. FURY #57: It's a mission of mercy, as Fury and his hard-hittin' Howlers plummet into Hitler-land to rescue Jim Morita's captured Nisei Squad from a Nazi POW camp! Need we say more, battle-mag buffs?

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #5: Who but mind-bending Marvel would dare put out a war-mag about . . . a counterfeiting plot? But, if you think they're in for a milk run — forget it! It's a block-bustin', brain-bogglin' blast!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #16: The FF, Iron Man, Dr. Strange, and the Hulk in some of the greatest, never-to-be-forgotten epics from the past! When we call it a collectors' item, we're not just whistlin' "The Merry Marvel Mazurka!"

MARVEL TALES #16: The Beetle — Tomorrow Man — Plant Man — and the sinister Serpent! (Against Spidey, Thor, the torrid Torch, and Marvel Boy, natch!) A foursome of the most senses-staggering battles since the Bulge!

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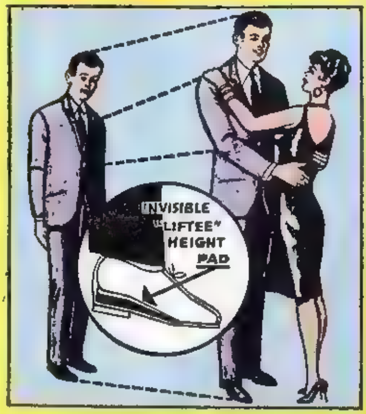

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WALLACE W. NEUMANN

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Fantastic Four (4) Fan Page

SEND LETTERS TO: LEE AND KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

I am writing this letter to comment on George Jessons's remarks about "The Many Lives of Dr. Doom." First of all, he stated that Doom shrank into nothingness in one battle and was trapped on an asteroid in the next. Well, that's kinda backwards. First, Doom was on an asteroid (F.F.#6) and then he shrank (F.F. #10). Also, he continually stated that the dear doctor was "killed off" a number of times. Since you didn't defend yourself, I presume you wanted the fans to play the part of Mr. Judd (for the defense, of course). To do this, I have prepared what I feel is a long overdue "History of Dr. Doom." As most fans know, Doom first appeared in F.F. #5. That issue, he escaped via a jet-pack, instead of being "killed off". The next issue, he teamed up with Submariner — and at the end was trapped on an asteroid. In ish #10, Doom returned and explained how he was saved by the Ovoids, intelligent beings from another planet. At the end of that issue, Doom shrank into what was described as nothingness. Apparently, Doom had shrunk into a microworld, and next encountered the F.F. and Ant Man in issue #16. He escaped at the story's end, returning the next issue for a rematch. This time, Doom jumped from a plane to avoid being captured. In Spidey #5, where Doom took on the amazing teenager, we saw that Doom had turned on his jet-pack once he was below the clouds, so the F.F. couldn't see him from the plane. F.F. #23 once again pitted darling Doc against his arch enemies. At the end, Doom was once again trapped in space. Next, Doom graced the pages of the F.F. An. #2 (which could have been called the Dr. Doom An.). In this story, Doom was hypnotized into believing he had defeated Reed Richards, then left for his kingdom in Latveria. The next time Doom showed up, he timed it just right. The F.F. had just lost their powers, in ish #38. With the help of Daredevil, they fought Doom in issues 39 and 40. At the end, F.F. regained their powers, and the Thing smashed Doom's hands and chestplate. While recovering from these wounds, Doom used his emotion-charger, in F.F. Ann.#3, to have countless super-villains attack the F.F. With the help of the Watcher and Marvel, Inc., the villains were sent back to where they came from. Before Doom matched wits with the F.F. again, he decided to take on the Avengers (as seen in AVENGERS #25). After a struggle, the Avengers escaped Latveria. Well, after so many defeats, Doom decided it would take more than his power to defeat the F.F. Therefore, in F.F. #57, Doom tricked the Silver Surfer and stole his power. In the next issue, Doom finally fulfilled his dream. HE DEFEATED THE FANTASTIC FOUR! Then, Doom made the mistake of letting them live . . . and in the next two issues, they defeated him by getting him to run into the barrier Galactus left behind. However, as seen in D.D. #36, Galactus set Doom free. After his epic battle with D.D., Doom finally retired to Latveria and watched his Yellow Claw forces being defeated, in STRANGE TALES #167. I hope by now Mr. Jesson realizes that everyone's favorite Doctor has never been "killed off". In closing, I would like to add that I always get a kick out of seeing how Stan gets Doom out of traps. So till "'Nuff" tells Irving what he "Said", I'll continue to be a Doomaniac.

Lamar Blaylock, 2349 Ewing Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30319

You certainly rate, for this ish, anyway . . . the title of: Doomaniac #1! Thanks, Lamar, for enlightening George that the diabolical doctor never *did* get killed off . . . not even *once!* As you point out so thoroughly in your compilation of Doom statistics, the evil doctor always managed to get away, to launch new malevolent schemes another day! Looking over your list of the arch-villain's traumatic escapades, you could almost believe he is called Dr. Doom because *he* is always being engulfed by a variety of dooms. Evidently, being super-villainous doesn't pay — especially with all those Marvel Super-Heroes around to make you live to regret it! We've a hunch Dr. Doom is in for some even more calamitous set-backs in future ishes! So dont'cha *dare* miss a single one of our explosive mags, hear?

Dear Stan, Jack, Roy, Gene, John, Mary, etc.,

I am writing this to FANTASTIC FOUR because it concerns more than one of your magazines and as you have said, F.F. is the leader. This mostly has to do with the relationship between the sexes. First, Giant-Man and the Wasp were back for several issues before I realized they weren't married. There is nothing gained by postponing the inevitable, so hitch them up. Second, did it occur to you that if Reed and Sue's baby is perfectly normal, he'd be a mutant (i.e. different from his parents). Also on this point, don't drag Sue's pregnancy out for much more than a year. It would destroy the effect of suspense.

PVT. George Ferguson, Fort Huachuca
Arizona

On the other hand, George, what could possibly be more suspenseful . . . and record-breaking . . . than to drag out Sue's pregnancy for longer than a year! That point about the baby of two mutants' being a mutant — different from its parents — *if* it were a normal person, is almost as *interesting* . . . as it is *confusing!*

Dear Stan and Jack,

After rereading FANTASTIC FOUR #74, I have come up with a very serious question. On page 14, Galactus states, "My journeying has been in vain! Each star I visit is barren!" Now look, fellas — have you ever tried to count the stars in the sky??? How many do you think there are? 1,000? Try about 100 billion and you're on the right track. Now then, with all these stars, do you mean to tell us Galactus can't find one measley star to feast on?? That's stretching Mr. Fantastic a bit too far!! Not only would one star give more energy to Galactus than 1,000 earths, but there are practically countless stars . . . in one galaxy alone! Please explain without any wisecracks, *please!* I really want to know. Other than this, however, your mags are superb.

Evan Katten, 719 Kenmore Road
Cynwyd, Pa. 19004

Only superb, Evan? Oh, well . . . there are only a limited number of superlatives in the dictionary, aren't there? Now about that serious answer, minus wisecracks! The point you make in your letter is decidedly accurate . . . *but* wouldn't our wondrous tales lose a lot of their fascinating appeal, if we stuck to the facts, with text-book tenacity? Of course, Galactus could tour those 100 billion stars for a quick snack! But then, where would our nerve-tingling suspense and epic combats go? Down the drain? You give us a little dramatic license, Evan-o . . . and we'll give you the greatest bonanza of comics literature super-thrills to ever go on sale anytime, anywhere!

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

(REAL FRANTIC ONE) — A BUYER OF AT LEAST 3 MARVEL MAGS A MONTH.

(QUITE 'NUFF SAYER) — A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED.

(TITANIC TRUE BELIEVER) — A DIVINELY-INSPIRED 'NO-PRIZE' WINNER.

(KEEPER OF THE FLAME) — ONE WHO RECRUITS A NEWCOMER TO MARVEL'S ROLLICKIN' RANKS.

(PERMANENT MARVELITE MAXIMUS) — ANYONE POSSESSING ALL FOUR OF THE OTHER TITLES.

(FEARLESS FRONT FACER) — AN HONORARY TITLE, BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

Dear Stan Lee and Co.,

May I speak in the behalf of Galactus as he appeared in FANTASTIC FOUR #74? You have got to be kidding! Such an awesome being as he could easily find an energy-reeking planet that would satisfy his appetite. I say it's a ruse thought up by Stan Lee to rid the world of Silver Surfers and to aid the Brand Echh Anti-Silver Surfer Society. To this I say no, let Galactus famish if it must be, and a big guy like him could stand it, anyhow. Protect the lustrous Surfer by giving him his own magazine to fight back with! I can see it now, at the finish of a future FANTASTIC FOUR adventure, "See the Silver Surfer defeat his greatest foe in his own *long overdue* comic on sale next month." Did I speak on behalf of Galactus, or what? Gary Dahlberg, 1715 Oliver Ave. N.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411

Far from launching a sinister plot to rid our beloved Earth of Silver Surfers, Stan — always quick to spot a winner — has noted the zooming popularity of S.S.! The superb first ish of the Silver Surfer's own mag is being rushed to the newsstands. Friendly tip, Gary! Make sure you grab a copy of the mag before it sells out!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Re Ron Yahne's question concerning Torch's cooked clothing (or lack of same!) FF #74 — Marveldom Assembled answers! As a TTF (True Torch Follower), I want to take this opportunity to point out something that most of Marveldom seems to have overlooked, i.e. Torch's fabulous flame DOES NOT eminate from his skin! In fact, it should be obvious to anyone who has studied comic-book physics that Johnny is totally fireproof! To my knowledge, he has never even been scorched! So how does Brightly Shining DO it? The same way that he controls other flames (he CAN do THAT, remember?)! What I would call "mind-over-thermal-energy"! To FLAME ON, all that Mrs. Storm's bouncing baby boy has to do is create a flame, COAT his body (complete with asbestolene FF threads) with this flame, and keep it burning (this is where H.T. runs into problems with his time limit, water, chemical foam, etc.). Starting and maintaining his flame, Johnny uses a photo-chemical endo-thermal reaction utilizing quasi-volatile gasio-solids and mentally dominated oxygen-rich plasmas! In other words, magic.) To fly, the Pyric Peril Pulverizer uses the above method (I'm not going to go through *that* again!), to induce a tightly-bound thrust-effect, while encasing himself within a hot-air vortex! Any more questions? Now, on to bigger and more Marvel-ous thoughts! Our superheated superhero's ability to control combustion has been played down too long! It hasn't even been properly tested! Can Johnny use his powers to put out a forest fire, an atomic bomb, or maybe even a star? I for one, would like to know! Also, we've seen H.T. control fiery doubles of himself . . . just how many of these can he manipulate at once? I'm thinking in terms of a blazing ARMY of Torches! Or, how about slipping just ONE in when everyone (except TTF's) thinks that the real H.T. is out of action! Do I qualify for No-Prizedom?

Tom Zmudzinski, 463 Cumberland B
University of Maryland, College Park
Maryland

You definitely do qualify for a no-prize, Tommy-boy! Your red hot suggestions about the Torch's use of his flame powers set our imaginations afire! What especially enthused us was your theory that Johnny uses a photo-chemical endo-thermal reaction utilizing quaso-volatile gasip . . . and . . . and . . . ! Let's try that, again! Johnny uses a photo-chemical endo-thruber util . . . util . . . ! Never mind! The no-prize, you'll get! Now please rush us an aspirin, for the king-sized headache we've got!

Dear Stan and Jack,

FANTASTIC FOUR #74 — yes! From cover to final page, this magazine was perhaps the most incredible single issue Marvel has yet produced. With your permission, I'll proceed to examine the reasons for this rather rash statement. First, the cover. This is about the strongest argument I can think of against those white covers you keep using. Every beautifully-executed inch of it spelled masterpiece! And the startling figure of Galactus striding through space, produced an unforgettable effect. Second, the story. In issue #75, you're printing a letter I sent a few months ago. If it's the one I think it is, will my face be red! In it, I severely criticized two things about the recent issues of the F.F., the loss of scope in your fantasy, and the lessened use of human emotion and feeling. Boy, did you change that! I have long considered Galactus to be one of your top fantasy characters, and his return was like manna from heaven. The interesting thing about the issue was that the emotional by-play I had missed was supplied by Galactus. The thought of this incredible being, wandering through space, hungering for energy, but not yet wanting to break his word, led to all sorts of extended speculation. It was a master touch. (By the way, the scene where Ben hurled the Punisher from the roof-tops, with the admonition, "Don't get lonely, Marvin", absolutely floored me. It was a beautiful characterization of Ben's personality. Third, the art. What can I say? Jack and Joe go together like, oh, any number of old cliches, from ham and eggs to peaches and cream. This issue ranks as one of their top efforts, with me. If you remember any other of my letters, you'll know that I don't write without complaining. Surprise! This ish was really a first. It didn't give me anything to complain about. How wonderful! I'd like to thank you again for giving Cap, Iron Man, Hulk, Dr. Strange, Shield, Sub-Mariner, and Captain Marvel their own mags. I would like to see some new characters, too, but from what you have said, we've got some coming. I can't complain here, either. Thanks again.

Bruce Coville, R. D. #2 Box 194
Phoenix, New York 13135

And thank you, too, Cousin Bruce, for the Marvel-ous words! We're delighted you're pleased with the unique fantasy and human characterizations for which our Leader and the King have won well-deserved kudos! But, about your departure from clobbering us at least once, in each letter. We like praise, but we profit from thoughtful criticism! So sock it to us in your own inimitable style in your next letter, Brucie-boy!

Dear Stan and Jack,

So what was so fantastic about FF #74? Outside of the ever-incredible art of the King, and the masterful, majestic plot by the Man, the outstanding thing had to be the cover. In the masthead, the Invisible Girl is featured. "Why?" you ask. Because the FF themselves are not portrayed on the cover, which is the best in a long, long time. This was the first time that I can remember a cover from the halcyon days of the start of the Marvel Age that the heroes of the mag were not on the cover. And that is why the Invisible Girl is featured in the masthead up in the top left corner. Talk about subtlety.

Mike Esterson, 368 Hopkinson, Univ. of Pa.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

Glad you noticed the soft-sell subtlety, Mike! About not having any of our heroes on the cover of that particular FF mag! Doing things the time-worn way, minus unexpected eye-popping surprises and amazing innovations, simply isn't the Marvel Way! Smilin' Stan, Rascally Roy, Groovy Gary . . . our entire crew of creative innovators, always aim toward ever-higher standards of comic mag quality productions! So, keep watching our sensational covers, and spectacular inside pages, for precedent-setting *"firsts"*!

NEXT

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Cloud Chamber

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Measuring Wavelength of Light

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